

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAM-01 AID-05 DHA-02 SAJ-01 /090 W

----- 007891

R 101630Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5974

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, MO

SUBJ: DETERIORATING PORTUGUESE-MOZAMBICAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) LISBON 0822 (DTG 060715Z FEB 76), (B) LISBON 0879
(DTG 091516Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF INFORMATION USED STRONG TERMS
TO DESCRIBE EFFECTS ON PORTUGUESE-MOZAMBICAN RELATIONS OF RECENT
MOZAMBIQUE DECISION TO NATIONALIZE PRIVATE DWELLINGS. GOP
DENIED FEB 9 THAT IT IS CONTEMPLATING AIRLIFT OF PORTUGUESE
NATIONALS FROM MOZAMBIQUE. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEB 10, INFORMATION MINISTER

ALMEIDA SANTOS USED STRONGEST TERMS EMPLOYED BY ANY GOP OFFICIAL TO DATE IN DESCRIBING EFFECTS OF MOZAMBIQUE'S FEB 3 DECISION TO NATIONALIZE PRIVATE DWELLINGS (REF A). ACCORDING TO ALMEIDA SANTOS, PROBLEM WAS NOT WHETHER MOZAMBIQUE SHOULD NATIONALIZE DWELLINGS, BUT HOW. IF PROPERTY OWNERS RECEIVED JUST COMPENSATION, THEN NATIONALIZATION WOULD BE EXERCISE OF LEGITIMATE SOVEREIGN RIGHT. IF NOT, THEN ACTION WOULD BE AN ACT OF "VIOLENCE AND EXTORTION." ALMEIDA SANTOS NOTED THAT THOSE PORTUGUESE WHO OPTED TO REMAIN IN MOZAMBIQUE AFTER INDEPENDENCE DID SO WITH CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PROPERTY RIGHTS. THE NATIONALIZATION DECISION HAS CHANGED THIS BASIC PREMISE, AND MANY PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE WERE NOW LIKELY TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL. AS A RESULT, MOZAMBIQUE MAY BE LEFT WITH MANY HOUSES, BUT FEW TECHINCIANS. THE DECISION, ALMEIDA SANTOS CONCLUDED, HAD DEALT A "HEAVY BLOW" TO RELATIONS.

2. ON FEB 9, MEANWHILE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION DENIED RECENT PRESS SPECULATION THAT GOP WAS GEARING UP AN AIRLIFT OF PORTUGUESE NATIONALS FROM MOZAMBIQUE. THERE WERE NO CURRENT PLANS TO INITIATE AN AIRLIFT, HE SAID, AND DECISION TO DO SO IN ANY CASE WOULD FOLLOW BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS CALLED FOR BY GOP FEB 7 (REF B). MINISTRY SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED GOP HOPES THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT SAID SCHEDULING OF TALKS WOULD DEPEND ON MOZAMBIQUE'S RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE INITIATIVE.

3. SEVERAL HUNDRED FORMER PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE, SOME OF WHOM STILL POSSESSED PROPERTY IN THAT COUNTRY, GATHERED IN DOWNTOWN LISBON FEB 9 TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR GOP'S POSITION ON MOZAMBIQUE NATIONALIZATION DECISION.

4. COMMENT: ALMEIDA SANTOS'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF FONMIN MELO ANTUNES AND COOPMIN VITOR CRESPO TO SOFT-PEDDLE MOZAMBIQUE PROBLEM, IT IS GENERATING INCREASING CONCERN, AND FRUSTRATION, WITHIN GOP. BOTH CRESPO AND ALMEIDA SANTOS HAVE CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN THE OUTCOME OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND MOZAMBIQUE; CRESPO BY VIRTUE OF HIS HAVING SERVED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LOURENCO MARQUES DURING THE DECOLONIZATION PERIOD; ALMEIDA SANTOS BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION AS MINISTER FOR INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1974 COUP AND BECAUSE HE OWNS CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY IN MOZAMBIQUE. CARLUCCI

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